

Fadely, Karen

From: Silawsky, Donald [Donald.Silawsky@hq.doe.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2005 11:40 AM
To: Fadely, Karen
Subject: FW: Back Up Facility for SPR

KAREN: Another SPR EIS comment.

DON SILAWSKY

-----Original Message-----

From: Cassingham, Bertha [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2005 12:55 PM
To: Silawsky, Donald
Subject: Back Up Facility for SPR

Good Morning,

I am a general employee at the DOE Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, NM. As you probably know, our scope is the disposal of Transuranic and Mixed Waste in a salt mine approximately 2,500 ft. underground.

Since our geologic disposal site is very similar to the geologic formation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserves, we have always shared info in some respects. We are also based in a large oil/natural gas fields area so have common interests. In fact the National Energy Plan already shows maps indicating SE New Mexico as having the preferred salt beds for storage of natural gas and petroleum, with proximity to natural gas and petroleum pipelines.

Our local department of development committee was looking at some of the research being done by DOE through Sandia National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory who both have branches here in Carlsbad, and some of the needs identified in the Energy Plan published by DOE in about 2002 and have felt we had the ideal location for a national energy research center which would incorporate an oil refinery, a back-up storage for SPR, maybe a national natural gas storage facility, with hydrogen research, further research on the CRADA by Sandia, air quality modeling improvements, phytoremediation research to determine the optimum approach for phytoremediation of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon, sensor technology, reprocessing of petroleum waste, such as heat exchanger cleaning residue, improved technology for on-stream inspection of pressure vessels and piping systems for corrosion and cracks and for heat transfer equipment, desulfurization research on novel methods of sulfur removal from crude oil, possibly in-situ for more cost-effective methods, processing hydrocarbons containing residual materials, etc. One key would be the back-up storage for SPR. We know that you were already holding public comment sessions on expanding current SPR facilities, and that those were put on hold due to Katrina.

Can you tell us what the process might be to get the DOE lands (the WIPP landwithdrawal act set aside 16 sections of land---with only small portion actually used for WIPP disposal land) near Carlsbad to be considered as a SPR consideration? With Katrina, we feel it became obvious that additional locations not on the coast are also perhaps needed. Are you still taking written comments only until October 14?

We are having a committee meeting this afternoon to determine our path forward for seeking such a facility--so your input is greatly appreciated.

THANKS!
Bertha Cassingham
[REDACTED]